







A close-up of Shinji looking thoughtful with his hands clasped.

I LEARNED
A LOT
IN THE
PROCESS.

NO,
THAT'S
ALL
RIGHT.

A close-up of Shinji looking thoughtful with his hands clasped.

I'M
GLAD
TO
HEAR
IT.

A close-up of Shinji looking thoughtful with his hands clasped.

IT WAS
TOTALLY
UNEXPECTED.

Shinji and Shinji are standing in front of a large window. Shinji is wearing a patterned cardigan over a white shirt, and Shinji is wearing a light-colored hoodie.

SORRY FOR
ALL THE
TROUBLE I
PUT YOU
THROUGH. I
SHOULD'VE
CONCEDED
DEFEAT AT THE
OUTSET.

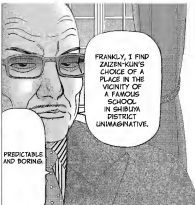
A close-up of Shinji looking thoughtful with his hands clasped.

BUT
I MUST SAY,
SHINJI-SAN, I
WAS STUNNED
WHEN I HEARD
YOU BOUGHT
PROPERTY
IN AYASE.

A close-up of Shinji looking thoughtful with his hands clasped.

UNEXPECTED?





FRANKLY, I FIND
ZAIZEN-KUN'S
CHOICE OF A
PLACE IN THE
VICINITY OF
A FAMOUS
SCHOOL
IN SHIBUYA
DISTRICT
UNIMAGINATIVE.

PREDICTABLE
AND BORING.



I HAD MY
REASONS
FOR
CHOOSING
DOWNTOWN.

I SEE..
SO I WAS
WINNING
AT FIRST.



LET
SLEEPING
DOGS LIE,
WILL
YOU?

HEY,
CUT
IT
OUT!

HAD YOU
CLEARED
THE PRICE
ISSUE, YOU
WOULD'VE
WON FOR
SURE.

THAT'S
RIGHT.
AYASE
WOULD'VE
HAD HUGE
IMPACT.



THAT WAS
ONLY IF
BOTH OF
YOU WERE
SERIOUSLY
COMPETING.
I FEEL LIKE
MY BROTHER
FORFEITED.



GOSH.
AT THE
OWNER'S
HOUSE,
YOU WERE
ROOTING
FOR ME
TO BEAT
SHINJI-SAN.



THIS IS
WHY I
DON'T
TRUST
YOU.

HOW
FICKLE.



THAT'S
ENOUGH,
MIYUKI.



I DON'T
CARE
ABOUT
YOUR
TRUST!



...NATURALLY,
I WAS
LOOKING
INTO ITS
FUTURE
GROWTH
POTENTIAL.

WELL...



WHAT
WERE
YOU
AFTER IN
DOWN-
TOWN?

SHINJI.



I FIGURED ITS EQUIVALENT IN TOKYO WOULD BE THE EDOGAWA AREA IN ADACHI, BUT IT WAS QUITE DIFFERENT FROM WHAT I HAD EXPECTED.

THE VALUE OF THE WATERFRONT DISTRICT IN NEW YORK IS RISING.



I WOULD'VE NEVER GUESSED A YOUNG MAN LIKE YOU WOULD HAVE ANY INTEREST IN WOOD-BLOCKS.



THAT WAS WHEN I SPOTTED A WOOD-BLOCK CRAFTSMAN'S STUDIO IN A HOUSING ROW.

I DECIDED TO GO BACK, BUT THEN I BEGAN TO HAVE DOUBTS.



THE CRAFTSMAN WAS YOUNG, WHICH WAS UNUSUAL.

OH.



AT FIRST, I WONDERED WHAT WOOD-BLOCKS EVEN WERE.

I NEVER WOULD HAVE GUESSED IT MYSELF.







I THOUGHT
HE WAS A
PRECIOUS
RARITY:
A MAN WHO'S
HAPPY EVEN
THOUGH HE'S
FINANCIALLY
BEREFT.

I'D SAY
HE'S A
HAPPY
MAN.



EMPATHY?
THAT'S
ALL THERE
WAS
TO IT?



HE'S FOUND
FULFILLMENT IN
LIFE, AND YET HE
WAS GOING TO
HAVE TO GIVE IT
ALL UP BECAUSE
THE LAND WAS
GETTING SOLD.
I COULDN'T
JUST LET THAT
HAPPEN.



NO... I WAS
ENCHANTED BY
THE
TRADITIONAL
CRAFT OF
WOODBLOCK
MAKING.



I
WONDERED
IF THERE
WAS
ANYTHING
I COULD
DO.



BUT I
COULDN'T
COME UP
WITH A
CONCRETE
PLAN
OVERNIGHT.

I CONTEMPLATED
THE POSSIBILITY
OF CREATING NEW
VALUE BY REVIVING
JAPANESE
CRAFTSMANSHIP,
AND NOT JUST OF
CONFECTIONARY
MOLDS.



HUH?



YOU
NEEDN'T
COME UP
WITH A
CONCRETE
PLAN.



HAVING A
DIRECTION
IS WHAT'S
REQUIRED.

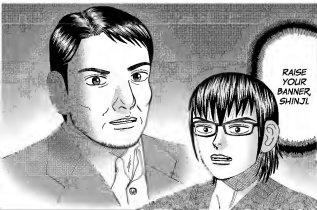
STARTING
A BUSINESS
REQUIRES NO
PLANNING.



HAVING A
DIRECTION.



BUSINESS IS
ALL ABOUT
BREAKING NEW
GROUND; ALL
ITS LEADER
REQUIRES IS
A DIRECTION
TO GO.



A black and white manga-style illustration of a man with glasses and a thick, textured sweater standing on a rocky cliff. He is holding a long banner that reads 'I WILL MAKE TRADITIONAL CRAFTWORK INTO A THRIVING BUSINESS'. A speech bubble above him says 'I'M GOING TO RAISE THE BANNER OF MAKING TRADITIONAL JAPANESE CRAFTWORK INTO A THRIVING BUSINESS!'. The background shows a vast landscape with mountains and a bright sun or moon.

I WILL MAKE TRADITIONAL CRAFTWORK INTO A THRIVING BUSINESS

I'M GOING
TO RAISE THE
BANNER
OF MAKING
TRADITIONAL
JAPANESE
CRAFTWORK
INTO A THRIVING
BUSINESS!





THAT
WAS MY
INTEN-
TION.

GRAND-
FATHER,
PLEASE LET
ME TAKE
CHARGE OF
AYASE'S
HOUSING
ROW.



I'M GOING TO
TURN IT INTO A
LOCUS FOR
YOUNG
CRAFTSPEOPLE
IN TRADITIONAL
JAPANESE ARTS
TO GATHER
TOGETHER.



IF THEY
CREATE
ENOUGH
COMMODITY
POWER,
DOORS WILL
OPEN TO
SPREADING
THEM OVER-
SEAS.

IF I CAN GATHER
DISPARATE
CRAFTSPEOPLE
INTO ONE AREA,
PERHAPS THEY'LL
LEARN FROM EACH
OTHERS' SKILLS
AND DEVELOP
NEW VALUES.



THAT WAS
THE AIM OF
MY HAVING
BOUGHT THE
HOUSING
ROW.

SO THAT'S
THE REASON
WHY I
PURCHASED
THE LOT IN
AYASE.



THEREFORE,
I NOW
DECLARE...

BEAUTIFUL!
THAT WAS A
SPLENDID
PRESENTATION.





